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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | 10/783,373 | OZAWA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Huan H. Tran | 2861 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to application papers filed on 02/20/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Huan Tran
Primary Examiner
AU 2861

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-13 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 and dependent claims thereof are allowable for the inclusion of the limitation "control means for controlling a series of correcting operations for correcting a positional offset between the images of the respective colors, wherein said control means executes the correcting operation in a first stage and second stage, corrects a positional offset on a pixel basis in the first state until the positional offset correction amount reaches a predetermined target range, and corrects a positional offset including a correction amount less than a pixel unit in the second stage".

Claim 5 and dependent claims thereof are allowable at least for the inclusion of the limitation "control means for controlling a series of correcting operations for correcting a positional offset between the images of the respective colors, wherein after deriving a positional offset correction amount by printing and measuring test images, said control means repeatedly executes correction of a printing position of an image on the basis of the positional offset correction amount, corrects a positional offset of an image on a pixel basis while the derived positional offset correction amount has not reached predetermined target range, and corrects a printing position of an image including a correction amount less than a pixel unit when the positional offset correction amount has reached the target range".

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Claim 10 is allowable for the inclusion of the limitation "executing color misregistration correction in a first stage and a second stage after the first stage; correcting a positional offset on a pixel basis in the first stage until a positional offset correction amount for images of the respective colors reaches a predetermined target range; and correcting a positional offset including a positional offset correction amount less than a pixel unit in the second stage."

Claim 11 and dependent claims thereof are allowable for the inclusion of the limitation "repeating the steps (a) (c) until the positional offset correction amount reaches a predetermined target range; and correcting the positional offset between the images of the respective colors including a positional offset with an amount less than a pixel unit when the positional offset correction amount reaches the target range."

By performing correction in two stages, the positional offset of an image of each color can be efficiently performed in a short period of time.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 22 of page 32, change "state" to --stage--.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2261. The examiner can normally be reached on at work on W-F from 6:30 to 5; T are telework days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Huan H. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2861

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02/15/06